

Falcon Focus

A Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Newsletter from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Mesa Police Department

Volume 3, Issue 1

Chief Dennis Donna

February 2003

NEW POLICE CHIEF



DENNIS DONNA

After a nationwide search, the Mesa City Council confirmed the selection of Dennis Donna as Mesa's new police chief in November 2002. Chief Donna manages the department's 1,300 sworn and civilian employees who work in the areas of administrative services, field operations in four districts and special operations.

Chief Donna joined the Mesa Police Department in 1984 as a patrol officer and was promoted to sergeant in 1989. In 1992, he was promoted to lieutenant, followed by commander in 1997. During this time, he served as a field training officer and motor officer, built the crime analysis unit, expanded the gang unit and helped the department move toward a community policing philosophy. He also oversaw installation of a new 9-1-1 system and computer-aided dispatch system.

By 1999, Chief Donna was named an acting assistant chief in charge of the Administrative Services Bureau, and was appointed assistant chief in charge of that same bureau in 2000. As assistant chief, he initiated work on building a new records management system, acquired new laptop computers for patrol officers and helped develop an integrated strategic planning/budget planning process for the department. His bureau also initiated an audit that streamlined procedures, leading to more than \$250,000 in annual savings.

He is a member of the Arizona Chiefs of Police Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Foundation, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and the National Emergency Number Association.

Chief Donna has a Bachelor of Arts degree in social justice from Lewis University, and a master's degree in justice studies from Arizona State University. He is also a graduate of LEAD, a public sector executive leadership program at the University of Virginia.

**Congratulations
CHIEF DONNA!**

New Staff Resources Commander



Les Portee is a 24-year veteran of the Mesa, Arizona Police Department. He graduated from the Phoenix Police Regional Academy in November 1978. Les worked Patrol, Undercover Narcotics, Robbery/Homicide, and Internal Affairs. He has supervised the Hiring unit, Community Relations unit and Internal Affairs. Les has managed the Central Patrol division and continues to manage a 27 member Cultural Awareness Team that is responsible for addressing community issues and conducting in-service training for police personnel.

Academically, Les completed an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Mesa Community College in 1985. In 1992, Les received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management from the University of Phoenix. In 1998, Les went on to complete his Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. Les is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and Arizona State University Executive Leadership Program.

Les is a native of Mesa, Arizona and believes that community involvement plays an important part of self-realization.

We MOVED

The Crime Prevention Unit has moved to a new more convenient location. We are now located at 225 E. 1st Street, Suite #207. This location is north of Main Street and just west of Mesa Drive on the South side of 1st Street. We moved out of the main police headquarters building to a more public location that allows easier access. The office is open to the public between the hours of 8:00-5:00 pm, so you can visit your favorite Crime Prevention Specialist, drop off attendance sheets and easily pick up supplies for your Neighborhood Watch. Our phone numbers and fax have **not** changed. The City of Mesa e-mails have changed along with our web site. You can now reach me at: jerry.quarles@cityofmesa.org and visit us on the web at: www.cityofmesa.org.

We are currently establishing the neighborhood watch e-mail database. Information will be sent by electronic mail that will not go out by postal mail. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please call me at: (480) 644-2539 or send e-mail to the address listed above.

The 2002 neighborhood watch audits to identify neighborhood watch groups that did not make the (two) meeting requirement during the 2002-year have started. Please ensure you have provided to us all of your attendance sheets.

BE ALERT



The Mesa Police Department Crime Prevention Unit has developed a child safety education program called "Be Alert". The program provides free safety and prevention information to children and parents.

The "Be Alert" program covers a variety of topics including child abduction and helmet safety, 911 education, and honesty, making good decisions, team building and self-esteem. The program is effective because the information is presented to the children at their level, the messages are short and to the point, and the messages are repeated numerous times throughout the presentation. Magic, puppets and props are used in a simple yet effective method of teaching the importance of safety and well-being. The lessons are designed to heighten awareness of the issues, teach strategies to avoid harm and reinforce what has been learned in a fun, interactive and creative way.

The age group appropriate for this program is kindergarten through the fourth grade (ages 5-11). A minimum number of children (no less than 20) makes the program more effective and is required to make the activities interactive.

The following dates are available

BY RESERVATION ONLY

March	17	12:00-1:00 pm	Main Library
March	20	12:00-1:00 pm	Main Library
April	1	6:00-7:00 pm	Mesa Police
April	23	6:00-7:00 pm	Jefferson Gym
May	13	6:00-7:00 pm	Dobson Library
May	29	6:00-7:00 pm	Mesa Police

Please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Jerry Quarles at: **480-644-2539** for more information about the program and to

New Falcon District Commander



Gil Otanez has been with the Mesa Police Department for over 23 years, the last 4.5 years as a commander. He has worked virtually all areas of the Department including Patrol, CID, SID, Traffic, Hiring, Training, Support Services, Professional Standards, and Technical Services. Commander Otanez has a B.A in psychology from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Commander Otanez is looking forward to providing quality service to all the citizens in the Falcon District.

Neighborhood Evaluation

Would you like to improve your Neighborhood Watch program? Create a Neighborhood Evaluation and ask the questions that you want answers for. This is a great way to find out how you are doing as captain and to determine the needs of your watch group. For example, you can ask the following:

- How was the last neighborhood party?
- Was the information provided useful?
- What type of event do you want for the next party?
- What is your one major concern about your neighborhood?
- What topic would you like to hear about if we had a guest speaker?
- How is your Captain performing?
- How can we improve?

You can design this evaluation anyway you want and even make it colorful! Feedback, whether positive or negative will help you improve your program and provide the fuel to get the Neighborhood Watch started again.

Promotions and Transfers In Police Administration

Mesa Police Chief Dennis Donna has announced that the position of Assistant Police Chief of Patrol Operations has been awarded to Dave Zielonka. He joins Assistant Chief Ron Poulin of Administration and Assistant Chief G.T. Fowler of Special Operations.

Chief Donna also announced the following transfers within the department to be effective Monday, January 20, 2003:

Commander:	From:	To:
Les Portee	Central Patrol	Staff Resources
Hector Federico	Falcon Patrol	Central Patrol
Dave Ashe	Dobson Patrol	Patrol Resources
Sandy Driscoll	Super Patrol	Dobson Patrol
Steve Toland	Patrol Resources	Special Investigations
Rick Clore	Staff Resources	Public Safety Communications
Dan Saban	Public Safety Communications	Superstition Patrol
Gil Otanez	Technical Services	Falcon Patrol

BLOCK LEADERS MEETING

On January 21, 2003 the Falcon District Block Leaders meeting was held. Out of 400 invitations sent out by mail and e-mail, 45 neighborhood leaders were in attendance. The meeting began with a brief presentation provided by Cindy Heard of the Neighborhood Outreach office. Cindy can be reached at (480) 644-5699 for details on the information that was provided.

Block Leaders participated in a variety of team building activities including: "Name That Tune" and "Puzzle Challenge." Prizes were awarded to the teams that guessed the most correct tunes and for completing the puzzle first. Several attendees assisted in a communication exercise where they had to answer a question by only saying one word at a time.

Numerous magic tricks were shown with ideas on how to implement them at a neighborhood watch party. Remember, magician's oath! Never tell how a magic trick is done!



Mesa Police Department
Community Relations Unit
130 North Robson
Mesa, AZ 85201-6697

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MESA, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 160

Add wooden
dowels to
windows and
sliding doors
for added
security!



New Neighborhood Watch Groups

2400 E. Catalina	Judy & Tim Renfro Beth & John Sheets Cori & Garret Gillespie
1400-1500 E. 3 rd St.	Judie & Gene Miller Patti & Laurence Bredengerrd Kelli & Mark Beasley
400-500 N. Merino	Barbara Lawson Kathy Hatfield Camille & Jerel Campbell
1400 N. Loma Vista 3000-3100 E. Hackamore	Judy & Mitch Barrett Shelly & Bob Gose

I would like to thank each and every one of these Block Captains for all the time and effort they have put into the starting of a Neighborhood Watch in their area. It takes sincere dedication and strong commitment to challenge your neighborhood and community in the fight against crime. Keep up the good work.

Mesa Neighborhood Watch Stats

Total Mesa Neighborhood Watches	754
Falcon District	219
Superstition District	308
Dobson District	108
Central District	119
Total Captains & Assistants	1,390
Falcon Captains & Assistants	378

Crime Prevention Specialist Jerry Quarles, CPS

Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

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Mesa City Home Page:

www.cityofmesa.org